



The Congressional Connector

Week of March 2 – 6, 2009

President Delivers Budget to Congress

On February 26, the Obama Administration submitted a blueprint for the 2010 budget to Congress. The budget plan focuses on economic recovery, strategic investments in critical areas – including health care, education and energy – and fiscal responsibility. The budget acknowledges that the new Administration inherited a record deficit for the current fiscal year, rising unemployment, and an economy in crisis. Getting the economy back on track is the first priority; however, the budget pledges to cut the deficit in half over the next four years.

[To view the President's budget in full, click here.](#)

Rep. Levin said, "Importantly, this budget is a more honest reflection of what the federal government will actually spend because it doesn't ignore large expenditures like the cost of ongoing military deployments abroad, natural disaster spending, and required changes to the tax code.... The budget also outlines some very clear priorities: health care, energy and education and makes needed investments in our roads, our communities and in manufacturing support programs that have been curtailed in recent years."

[To read Rep. Levin's entire statement, click here.](#)

Recovery Funds to Help Reduce Pollution in Lake St. Clair

On March 4, the State of Michigan announced that two projects in communities within the Lake St. Clair watershed are eligible to receive federal Clean Water funding through the economic recovery legislation recently approved by Congress. The two Lake St. Clair-related projects eligible for assistance would correct longstanding problems with the sanitary sewers in the communities of Center Line and Fraser.

"Using the recovery funds for these projects will help reduce pollution in the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair," said Rep. Levin. "This is an excellent use of the economic recovery funds. It will create jobs and keep millions of gallons of raw sewage from fouling the environment."

[For more information, click here.](#)

Lawmakers Call for Action to Address Tax Haven Abuse

On February 20, Reps. Sander Levin, Rosa DeLauro (CT), Lloyd Doggett (TX) and Michigan Senator Carl Levin wrote to the Obama Administration to express concern that some of the largest publicly traded companies in the United States continue to use offshore tax havens to avoid paying U.S. taxes. The use of such foreign tax shelters costs American taxpayers an estimated \$100 billion a year. The lawmakers' letter was addressed to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Peter Orszag.

The letter reads, in part: "We write to express our deep concern with the continued practice by most of the United States' largest publicly traded companies - including many federal contractors and recipients of financial bailout funds - of using offshore tax havens or financial privacy jurisdictions to avoid paying U.S.

taxes.... As we hope you agree, the fact that hard working American taxpayers who play by the rules are providing funds to companies using tax haven subsidiaries that may help them dodge payment of their fair share of taxes is simply unacceptable.”

[To read the entire letter, click here.](#)

Students Invited to Participate in Women’s History Month Essay Competition

Rep. Levin invites middle and high school students from Michigan’s 12th Congressional District to participate in a special essay competition in celebration of Women's History Month. Student’s essay should identify a woman in Michigan's history that inspires them. Students are welcome to write on a historical figure, a contemporary figure, or someone in their own families.

[For more information, click here.](#)